

UNCLASSIFIED

IRAQ

Tariq AZIZ

(Phonetic: ahZEEZ)

Deputy Prime Minister (since 1979)

Member, Revolutionary Command Council (since 1977)

Minister of Foreign Affairs (since 1983)

Tariq Aziz is Iraq's most visible foreign policy maker. He provides input on international affairs at regular meetings of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), Iraq's governing body. He heads his country's delegation to peace talks with Iran and presents his government's positions before the world press. He is highly regarded in the Arab world and in the West for his eloquence and his pragmatic policy views.

Aziz was born in 1936. After receiving a degree in English from the University of Baghdad in 1958, he began serving as a propagandist for the Ba%5th Party. In the late 1950s and early 1960s he edited three different party papers. Elected a candidate member of the Regional Command, the party's highest body, in 1974, he became a full member three years later. He was Minister of Information during 1974-77.

Aziz is a Chaldean Christian. He speaks excellent English. Married, he has children.

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